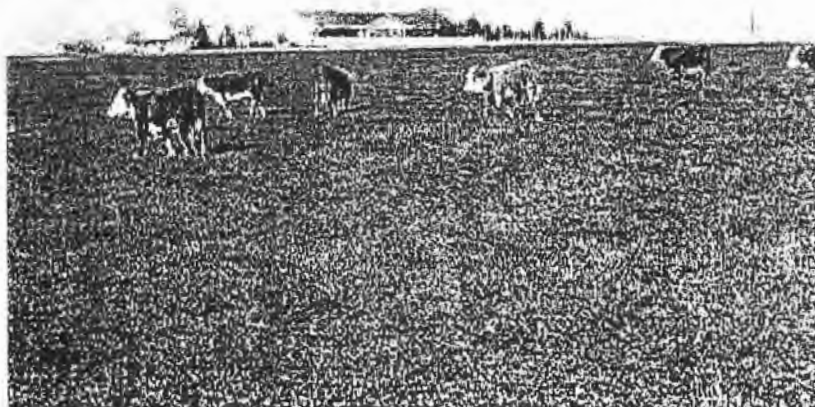


BERSEEM CLOVER



Berseem clover, also called Egyptian clover, is believed to have originated in Syria. It was introduced into Egypt in the 6th Century and is now grown on half the cultivated land in that country as a winter cover and green manure crop. Berseem clover is also a prominent legume in India. It has oblong leaflets, hollow stems, large white flowers, and can grow up to 2.5 ft. tall. Berseem clover was evaluated throughout the southeastern United States in the early 1950's. Although high yielding, berseem clover lacked cold tolerance. Bigbee berseem, a joint release by the USDA and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station in 1984, has improved cold tolerance. However, even Bigbee berseem is considered less cold hardy than most of the other annual clovers.

Berseem clover is well adapted to river bottoms and clay soils with a pH of 6 to 8. It has persisted in river bottoms that are subject to temporary flooding. If inundated for 4 to 5 days, top growth will die. But after the water drains off, new shoots will develop from the crown. Berseem clover has medium size seed with 207,000 seed/lb. Recommended seeding rate is 12 to 16 lb/acre. Bigbee berseem has excellent seedling vigor with growth 8 to 10 inches tall by December if planted on a prepared seedbed in late September or early October along the Gulf Coast.



Grazing should begin when it is 6 to 8 inches tall to stimulate tillering and limit frost damage. Bigbee berseem clover begins flowering in late April. It does well under irrigation in southern California and is used as a summer green manure crop in crop rotations in the mid-west. Bloat potential of berseem clover is low but animal losses due to bloat have been reported.

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